

SYNONYMIC NOTES ON THE BETHYLIDAE DESCRIBED BY
V. DE MOTSCHULSKY (HYMENOPTERA: ACULEATA)

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Abstract.—The Motschulsky types of Bethylidae were studied. *Dolus* Motschulsky is synonymized with *Epyris* Westwood by designation of *politus* Motschulsky as type-species; the Egyptian *politus* and *apicalis* Motschulsky are new combinations in *Epyris*; the Ceylonese *subnitidus* Motschulsky and *opacicollis* Motschulsky are new combinations in *Holepyris* Kieffer, and the former species is synonymized under the latter. Lectotypes are designated for *politus* and *opacicollis*. The Ceylonese *Homalus?* *amplipennis* Motschulsky is a new combination in *Holepyris*. The Ceylonese *Goniozus montanus* Kieffer, replacement name for *Bethylus distigma* Motschulsky not Thomson, is confirmed as a species of *Goniozus*.

The Russian coleopterist Motschulsky published a catalog of Ceylonese insects in three parts and a supplement (1861-65). He listed therein previously known species and described a number of new insects. Most of the new species were Coleoptera but he also included some species of Hymenoptera and other orders. The type series are in the Zoological Museum, Moscow State University, USSR.

Motschulsky described one genus and six species of Bethylidae in this catalog of Ceylonese species, four species from Ceylon and two from Egypt. The Ceylonese insects came from J. Nietner, a coffee planter and amateur coleopterist. The specimens are not in good condition, some having suffered damage from dermestids or breakage so that appendages are often lacking. The specimens are glued on small cards. One specimen of each species bears a small hand-written label "Type" and a larger label bearing Motschulsky's hand-written identification label. The identification labels of the Ceylonese

species also bear a notation such as "I. or. Ceyl. Mt. N.E." indicating that this specimen came from the Oriental island of Ceylon from "Montagnes de Nura-Ellia." Specimens that I consider to be syntypes do not bear identification labels but were placed in the collection next to the specimen bearing the "type" label. Motschulsky did not designate types in his paper. In the two species containing several syntypes, I have selected as lectotype the specimen bearing the "type" label.

Motschulsky listed the localities from which the bethylids were described as "Montagnes de Nura-Ellia" and as "Mont Patannas." Nuwara Eliya is a town at an altitude of some 1800 m. Two mountains nearby are Hakgala and Pidurutalagala attaining elevations of about 2100 and 2500 m respectively. Patannas is not a mountain; patannas are areas of montane grassland occurring at altitudes above 500 m.

I am publishing the following synonymic notes in advance of a revisionary study of

the Ceylonese Bethyridae so the information can be included in a world catalog of Bethyridae in preparation by Gordon Gordh.

Subfamily Epyrinae
Dolus Motschulsky

The genus *Dolus* (1863: 27) has been a puzzle since its description. Dalla Torre (1898: 536) assigned it to the Dryininae; (Motschulsky placed all his bethyrids under the heading *Dryinides*). Ashmead (1902: 272) placed it with question as a synonym of *Mesitius* sensu Ashmead not Spinola. Kieffer (1908) omitted it in his treatment of Bethyridae in *Genera Insectorum*, but included it as a questionable [zweifelhafte] genus in his monograph of the family in *Das Tierreich* (1914).

Motschulsky described *Dolus* for four new species, two from Ceylon, *subnitidus* and *opacicolis*, and two from Egypt, *politus* and *apicalis*. The first two species are congeneric with species placed in *Holepyris* Kieffer, 1904, and the last two with species placed in *Epyris* Westwood, 1832. In the interest of nomenclatorial stability I designate *politus* as the type-species of *Dolus*, thus sinking that genus as a synonym of *Epyris*.

Dolus politus and *apicalis* are new combinations in *Epyris*. The former species was described from three conspecific females, one of them on a single card bearing "type" and identification labels, the other two females on a single card without labels. I designate as lectotype the specimen bearing the "type" label. *Dolus apicalis* is based on a unique female. Neither species is known to occur in Sri Lanka.

It should be noted that *Epyris apicalis* Smith, 1874, becomes a secondary homonym with the transfer of *apicalis* Motschulsky to *Epyris*. I shall not propose a substitute name inasmuch as a junior synonym may be available for *apicalis* Smith.

***Holepyris opacicolis* (Motschulsky),
NEW COMBINATION**

Dolus opacicolis Motschulsky, 1863: 28.

Dolus subnitidus Motschulsky, 1863: 27–28.
NEW SYNONYM.

Dolus opacicolis was described from three conspecific females from "Montagnes de Nura-Ellia et Patannas." One specimen bears a label "type" and another label on which Motschulsky wrote his identification and "I. or. Ceyl. Mt. Pat." Two unlabeled females standing next to this specimen are syntypes; we know that Motschulsky had a series of *opacicolis* for he gave the length as $1\frac{1}{5}$ – $1\frac{1}{4}$ lines. I designate as lectotype the specimen bearing the "type" and identification labels. *Dolus subnitidus* was described from a single female from "Montagnes de Nura-Ellia"; it has suffered some dermestid damage.

The minor differences between the two species noted by Motschulsky fall within the normal range of variation of this taxon. The specimen of *subnitidus* has the head somewhat less dull than is typical so I place it as a synonym of *opacicolis*. I have two females collected in Udawattakele Sanctuary, Kandy, by the Smithsonian's Ceylon Insect Project, and a third labeled just Ceylon, collected by G. H. K. Thwaites, the first Director of the Royal Botanic Garden at Peradeniya near Kandy, and accessioned by the British Museum in 1867. These three specimens are very similar to the type of *opacicolis*.

***Holepyris amplipennis* (Motschulsky),
NEW COMBINATION**

Homalus? amplipennis Motschulsky, 1863: 26.

Perisemus amplipennis Dalla Torre, 1898: 549.

The unique type is a male from "sommités du Mont Patannas." It is not the opposite sex of *opacicolis* (Motschulsky).

Subfamily Bethylineae
Goniozus montanus Kieffer

Bethylus distigma Motschulsky, 1863: 26–27. (Preoccupied in *Goniozus* by *distigma* Thomson, 1861.)

Goniozus montanus Kieffer, 1908: 15 (New name for *distigma* Motschulsky.)

The unique type is a female from "Montagnes de Nura-Ellia." Motschulsky wrote *bistigma* rather than *distigma* on his label. I can confirm Kieffer's transfer of this species to *Goniozus*.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to my colleague Alexander V. Antropov, Moscow State University, USSR, for lending the Motschulsky material for study. I thank also Curtis W. Sabrosky, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, U.S. Department of Agriculture (ret.),

for reviewing the manuscript and making helpful suggestions.

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